British Packet

AND

ARGENTINE NEWS.

N°. 738.] BUENOS AYRES, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1840. [Vol. XV.

BUENOS AYRES.

The chief feature of novelty in the military intelligence of the past week, is the defeat and complete destruction of the body of men headed by Valdez and Villalva, which event took place on the 30th ult., near a place called *Cabeza del Buey*, far in the Pampas. Of the 180 men who composed this force, upwards of 80 were killed, including the ringleaders and 7 officers, and 74 were made prisoners. A great number of horses and a large quantity of correspondence from Lavalle fell into the hands of the victorious troops, under the command of Lieut. Col. Plaza. The principal ringleader, Valdez, had been despatched by Lavalle, on his landing at San Pedro, with a small party of troops and four Indians left at Martin Garcia, where they were confined to hard labour for misdemeanour, with the object of creating an insurrection among the friendly tribes; but he had not proceeded far from the coast when he was abandoned by the Indians, who fled to their homes and discovered the scheme. After this Valdez confined his operations to the surprisal of unprotected posts along the extensive line of frontier, by which means he was enabled to encrease his force and collect a considerable number of horses. It is said that seeing Lavalle's prospects clouded, and apprehending an attack from the government troops, he was proceeding to join the hostile Indians when he was overtaken and cut to pieces by Lieut. Col. Plaza.

It is likewise reported that a squadron of 200 men commanded by one Olmos has been routed by Col. Lagos, but we have heard no distinct particulars of this affair.

Lavalle, after much marching and countermarching, is said finally to have taken up a position on the *Lomas de Coronda*, where he has fortified himself.

We received by H. B. M's packet Spider, London papers to 5th August, Paris to 3rd do. Their contents are interesting. It would seem that the reported disagreement between the governments of France and England is not altogether without foundation, but warlike demonstrations have been confined to France alone. The following article is from 'The Globe,' evening paper, and is important not only as being the latest date from London, but as emanating from "Lord Palmerston's paper," for so it is denominated.

The French ordinances which reached London the day before yesterday, and which ordered a levy of additional soldiers and sailors, and the commissioning of five more sail of the line, excited great interest in the public mind. Every body was asking—What does all this mean? What will the English government do thereupon? Will there be a message to Parliament? Will a vote of credit be asked for?—The answer was,—All this means just little more than nothing—the English government will do thereupon nothing—and will ask Parliament for nothing.

The fact is, that these ordinances are only a part of a system of intimidation which the French government and newspapers have for the last fortnight unsuccessfully, and, as it appears to us, foolishly, adopted upon the Turkish question, in the vain hope of frightening Austria and Prussia, and of producing in this country a pressure from without, to force the English government to alter its course: and, possibly, also for the purpose of beating down the funds in both countries, in order to suit the speculations of particular individuals.

Now, all this French fury is either assumed, or it is real. If it is all a piece of acting, got up for a purpose and for an occasion, the Four Powers are justified in treating it with perfect indifference. If, on the other hand, it is real, it must have a cause; and as nothing which has been done by the Four Powers affords apparently any just reason whatever for such anger on the part of France, we are driven to the unavoidable conclusion, that the resolution lately taken by the Four Powers has thwarted and defeated some deep-laid schemes of self-interested policy planned by the French government, but which the French government has never ventured to avow. If this be so, and we are inclined to think it may, Europe will have reason to rejoice at a determination which has prevented the establishment of French domination in Egypt and Syria, and which has rendered abortive an intrigue for making the Mediterranean a French lake.

But be this as it may, the practical question at the present moment is, does the French government mean to go to war with the Four Powers in order to protect Mehemet Ali? To this we answer boldly and confidently, *No*.

France is tied up from so doing by solemn and spontaneous declarations of principle, as applicable to this very question; and France is restrained from doing so by want of military and naval means to carry so foolish and unjust an intention into execution.

France has repeatedly and publicly declared that she is determined "to maintain the integrity of the Turkish Empire under its present dynasty."

With what face, then, could France take up arms to dismember Turkey, by giving one-third of the empire to another dynasty? We know it will be said that the French government played us false about Spain; and though actually bound by treaty to assist Queen Isabella, did all it could do underhand to assist Don Carlos.—This, no doubt, is true; but then it was *underhand* that the French government did this; and it did not venture to set public opinion openly at defiance by sending French troops to act in conjunction with the Carlists. The French government, we admit, supplied Don Carlos with money, arms, horses, ammunition, stores, provisions, but it had the decency not to be seen actually fighting by his side. So in the present case, the French government has sent, and will continue to send, money to Mehemet Ali; but it will carefully abstain from allowing the French navy to fire a shot in his defence.

France, indeed, is not in a condition to make a war of aggression against the Four Powers. For, first, what could France do in such a war by land? She has altogether an army of about 300,000 men; and she might perhaps add another 100,000 to that number. But what are the fixed demands for her military force? She has 60,000 men in Algiers; and if we allow that 20,000 more of her nominal force must be tied up at home, as a reserve for the army of Algiers, we shall probably not be beyond the mark.

There was a grand ceremony in Paris last week, and it was thought necessary for the tranquillity of the capital to have between 50 and 60,000 troops of the line under arms that day. Here, then, are 60,000, 20,000 and 50,000 men, making 130,000, locked up, and not disposable for general service. But Lyons, and other towns, require garrisons as well as Paris; and, after all deductions made, we will venture to say that France could not put into the field for offensive operations, along the whole line of her eastern frontier, more than 200,000 men, if so many. Now that is a large army, if collected on one point; but in the event of a war with all Germany, France must have two if not three large armies; and it would require many more that 200,000 men to make out these armies.

So much for her field operations. But what are the domestic considerations bearing on this matter? Louis Pҥilippe has ever since he ascended the throne felt, and felt justly, that his dynasty depends on the preservation of peace. Accordingly the preservation of peace has been the Pole-star by which he has steered.

For the first three or four years after 1830, the Three Powers were hostile; and therefore France courted England as her support.

"The English alliance" was in every man's mouth at Paris; and to a certain degree the wish of every man's heart. After a while the hostility of the Three Powers, or at least of two out of the three, relaxed; and with that relaxation of their hostility relaxed also the warmth of the French attachment to the alliance of England. Then began a series of petty annoyances against the commerce and interests of England—in Africa and America, in Portugal, and elsewhere. Then began a secret departure from the engagements of treaties, by support given to Don Carlos in Spain.

The French government felt that it was secure of peace if it could reckon upon the support of England against the Two Powers, or upon the support of the Three Powers against England. But now that it finds England and the Three Powers united—in spite of all its secret endeavours to sow dissension between them—upon Turkish affairs, it must feel that its only chance of preserving peace is to *remain quiet itself*; and this course, notwithstanding all the vapouring we have already seen, and still may see, the French government will pursue.

Sovereigns who reign by inheritance, are more free in many cases to act as they will; but sovereigns who have mounted thrones to which they were not called by hereditary right, ought never to make aggressive war, unless they or one of their sons can be the general to command the army of operations.

This is a truth founded upon considerations which must at once strike the most superficial observer. Now neither the King of the French nor the Duke of Orleans could take the effective and real direction of an army of 200,000 men. If the aggressive war into which they might plunge the nation should fail, the just indignation of the people would sweep the dynasty from the throne. If that aggressive war should succeed, the general by whose genius it had succeeded would become arbiter of the destinies of the dynasty. The King of the French is too wise a man deliberately, and without necessity, to place himself at the mercy of one of his own generals at the head of a victorious army.

So much for the continental part of the war; but would France have a better chance of success in a naval war? Far from it. The French have fifteen sail of the line now at sea, and three more in progress of equipment, which will make eighteen. They have besides five sail of the line in ordinary, which are now to be commissioned; and these 23 are, literally speaking, the whole amount of the ships of the line which they could by any possibility put to sea before the middle of next summer. They have

(*See last page.*)

The arrival of Admiral Mackau, at Montevideo, gives us occasion to copy from 'James's Naval History' the following details, so honorable to the Admiral as an officer and a gentleman.

"On the 26th of May, 1811, at daybreak, the British 18-gun brig-sloop Alacrity (sixteen 32-pounder carronades and two sixes), Captain Nesbit Palmer, cruising off Cape St-André, island of Corsica, with the wind a moderate breeze from the eastward, discovered about six miles to leeward, and immediately chased, a large man-of-war brig, which proved to be the French brig-corvette Abeille, of 24-pounder carronades, commanded by acting Lieutenant de vaisseau Ange-René-Armand De Mackau. Observing that the vessel approaching was a brig, Lieutenant De Mackau knew at once the extent of her force; and accordingly shortened sail, hoisted his colours, and fired a gun of defiance. By manœuvring skilfully, the Abeille managed to pour into the Alacrity one or two raking fires. The French brig now tried for the weathergage, and having obtained it, passed and engaged her opponent on the opposite tack; then bore up, and running close under the Alacrity's stern, raked her. The Abeille afterwards hauled up on the same (the larboard) tack as the Alacrity, and engaged her to leeward, keeping just upon the British brig's quarter; so that, while her own guns were playing havoc upon the decks of her antagonist, the Alacrity had scarcely a gun which she could brig to bear. In a vessel whose tiller works on deck, the quarter is much more decidedly the "point of impunity," than in a vessel whose tiller works below. For instance, in the Alacrity and brigs of her class, the space between the aftermost port and the stern is upwards of 11 feet, to allow room for the sweep of the tiller, consequently, the whole of the space, one ninth part of the length of the deck, is without a gun.

"The damaged state of the Alacrity's rigging soon obliged her to drop astern, and thereby afforded her the opportunity of bestowing a few shot in return for the many she had received; but the Abeille quickly freed herself from the effect of those by ranging ahead, and placing herself upon the Alacrity's starboard bow.—The latter, feeling sensibly the ill effects of this diagonal fire, threw all back, and endeavoured to pass astern of her antagonist; but the Abeille saw the well-meant manœuvre, and at once frustrated it by bearing up. The two brigs continued thus engaged, side by side, for a few minutes longer; when the Alacrity, having had her sails and rigging cut to pieces, fell off, with her stern completely exposed to the Abeille's broadside. In this defenceless state the British brig remained, until, having had all her officers killed or driven from the deck but the boatswain, she was compelled to haul down her colours.—This took place about three quarters of an hour after the commencement of the action.

"The Alacrity, out of a crew on board of 100 men and boys, including 13 of the latter, had her first and only lieutenant (Thomas Gwynne Rees) and four seamen killed, her captain (slightly), master (David Laing), one and her only master's mate (Mr. Warren, mortally), surgeon (William Turner, slightly, while dressing the wounded), boatswain (severely), and eight seamen and marines wounded. Lieutenant De Mackau, in his letter, as given in the Moniteur, enumerates 15 killed and 20 wounded; but the account, as we have stated it, may be depended upon as correct. The Abeille, whose crew amounted to at least 130 men and boys, lost, according to the acknowledgment of her officers, seven seamen and marines killed and 12 wounded. Neither brig, as far as it appears, had any mast shot away; although both, particularly the Alacrity, had received damage in them, as well as in the rigging, sails, and hull.

"Here were two brigs, when the action began, about equally matched, and, when it ended, nearly equal sufferers in point of numerical loss: a circumstance that renders the termination of it, by the capture of one of them, so much the more extraordinary. It was, however, in numbers merely, that the loss came so near to an equality; as the Alacrity's almost unparalleled loss of officers has already in part shown, and as the further explanation, which our duty calls upon us to give, will completely establish. Out of her full net complement of 120 men and boys, the Alacrity sailed upon her last cruise with only 101 men and 13 boys.—Falling in with and detaining a Greek ship, rather largely manned, Captain Palmer sent on board his second lieutenant, Mr. Alexander Martin, a skilful and zealous officer, and 13 able seamen, with orders to carry the ship to Malta. This was in the beginning of May. Thus left with all her boys, and with very little more than four-fifths of her men, the Alacrity encountered the Abeille in the manner already stated. In the early part of the action, Captain Palmer received a lacerated wound in his hand and fingers, and went below, and remained below. The command, in consequence, devolved upon Lieutenant Rees, and a more efficient officer could not be found. Presently Lieutenant Rees had his leg badly shot, and was borne to a carronade slide. There he sat, persisting in not being carried below, and animating the men by every means in his power, until a second shot laid him dead on the deck. His place was filled by Mr. Laing, the master.—While he was in command, the master's mate, Mr. Warren, received his mortal wound; and at length Mr. Laing got wounded also, by a contusion in the upper part of the thigh, and he went below.

"The men on the quarterdeck now called out, that there was no officer to command them.—Instantly James Flaxman, the boatswain, stepped aft, who, although he had received a painful wound in the left arm by a nail and been knocked into the waist by a splinter, was again at his post on the forecastle cheering the people.—Here, again, all might have gone on well, in spite of the disheartening effect produced upon the crew by the absence of their finger-wounded captain. Although his hand had been dressed, the latter was so stomach-sick, or so sick somewhere else, that he remained below; and, whether it was that a shot, which about this time wounded the surgeon in the cockpit, alarmed the captain in the cabin, or that the latter began to compassionate others, as well as himself, Captain Palmer sent up orders to strike the colours. No sooner was the order announced on the quarterdeck, than, snatching up a pistol from off the binnacle, the boatswain swore he would blow out the brains of the first man who attempted to execute it. The threat had its effect, and the ensign of the Alacrity continued to wave at her gaff-end. In a very short time, however, while the intrepid Flaxman was standing near the main hatchway, exhorting the crew to act like British seamen, the gunner, who ranked above the boatswain, and seems to have caught the captain's infection, hauled down the brig's colours.

"It was as fortunate for the memory of the Alacrity's late commander, as, in reference to the merits of this action, it was unfortunate for the cause of truth, that he died a month afterwards of a locked jaw brought on by his originally insignificant wound. Every person does not know that, in warm climates, a comparatively slight cut between the thumb and forefinger will frequently produce locked jaw; and therefore the undisputed fact, that Captain Palmer "died of his wounds," not only exonerated him, in public opinion, from all blame, but stamped his character with a quality, to which, as is now evident, he had not a pretension. Let those who maintain, that the dead are not to be spoken ill of, answer the question, whether the good of the individual should not give way to the good of the many? Whether, in short, it is not more consonant to justice to show, that a certain mishap or calamity arose from the defection of one man, than leave it to be inferred, that 100 men failed in their duty?

"But, there were gems in the British character, that, had the Alacrity not met the Abeille, and had the captain of the former not behaved as he did, would perhaps for ever have lain hid. Lieutenant Rees, for instance, might never have had an opportunity of displaying the trait of heroism which caused his death; nor James Flaxman, the boatswain, the undaunted spirit that animated him, and which at least delayed, although it could not prevent, the surrender of the British brig. Satisfied we are that, if the details of every British naval defeat were fully made public, instead of, as is usually the case, suppressed or but partially given, sufficient glory would be elicited to counteract the disgrace, which the unexplained result of the action is, in almost every case, calculated to produce.

"Before we dismiss the action of the Alacrity and Abeille, let us do justice to the officers and crew of the latter. They did their duty like brave men and good seamen; and, as an additional proof that they were brave men, treated their prisoners with attention and kindness.—With respect to the Abeille's commander, he obtained the promotion to which his gallantry so justly entitled him: he was immediately confirmed in his appointment of a lieutenant de vaisseau, and made a member of the legion of honour. On the 7th of February, 1812, Lieutenant De Mackau was made a capitaine de frégate; soon afterwards a baron of the French empire: and on the 1st September, 1819, a capitaine de vaisseau.

"On the 30th May, 1814, on board the Gladiator at Portsmouth, a court-martial sat on the surviving officers and crew of the Alacrity.—The court acquitted them of all blame, and attributed the brig's loss to so many of her officers having been killed or wounded, and to the "captain's not returning on deck after having had his wound dressed by the surgeon." The court, also, greatly eulogized the conduct of James Flaxman, the boatswain; and he now, we believe, fills a similar station on board a line-of-battle ship.

"The French official account states the force of the Alacrity at "20 carronades; 32-pounders." For this there was some ground, the brig having really mounted two small brass guns, 2 or 3-pounders, abaft. But there were no shot for them; they were the captain's playthings, and served occasionally to exercise the crew in the encessary art of polishing. Of this oversight, or whatever it may have been, in Captain De Mackau, we feel the less disposed to complain, because he fairly states the force of his own brig at "20 carronades, 24-pounders." A French writer, whose works are of deservedly high repute in this country, has selected about four cases out of the mass to be found in these pages, in order to show, that "French valour can triumph over British bravery," "la vaillance français pouvait triompher de la bravoure britannique." Far be it from us to discourage the laudable endeavours of M. Dupin to reannimate the drooping navy of his country: we heartily wish he may succeed, because we are convinced that, unless the French navy thrives, the British navy will droop. By the French the British can afford to be beaten occasionally; and, had the British been oftener defeated during the six years that preceded, they would, we are sure, have been oftener successful in the three years that followed, the 18th of June, 1812.

"However, not to lose sight of M. Dupin, let us remark that, in stating the broadside-force of the Alacrity at 127 "kilogrammes," and that of the Abeille at 109, he proves the inaccuracy of his information respecting the mounted force of the two vessels. M. Dupin may correct his error by reducing the following into French weights: Alacrity, broadside-force 262 lbs., Abeille, same, 260 lbs. In stating that the French brig Renard was of the same force as the Abeille, M. Dupin is also wrong, owing probably to his being unacquainted, that the Abeille was not a regular-built French corvette, but a large American brig, purchased at some port in the Mediterranean and fitted out by the admiral at Toulon as a cruiser. The very circumstance of her having mounted, before carronades were so much in use in the French navy, 18 long 8 pounders and two brass 36-pounder carronades, shows that the Abeille must have been a brig of very large dimensions; especially when it is considered, that the Alacrity's class, averaging 383 tons, was originally designed to carry 18 long 6-pounders."

The following account from the same work is equally honorable to Admiral Dupotet.

"On the 5th of April 1809, at 11 a. m., the Cordouan lighthouse bearing east by north distant 42 leagues, the British 18-pounder 36-gun frigate Amethyst, still commanded by Captain Michael Seymour, standing about a point free on the larboard tack with the wind at east, and having in her company, within signal distance to the northward, or nearly astern, the 18-pounder 36-gun frigate Emerald, Captain Frederick Lewis Maitland, descried, in the east-south-east, a ship steering to the westward; and which, on discovering the two frigates, hauled up to the south-south-east. This was the French 40-gun frigate Niemen, Captain Jean Henri-Joseph Dupotet, two days from Verdon road, with six months' provisions and a quantity of naval stores on board, bound to the Isle of France.

(*Continued from first page.*)

from 20 to 25 more on the stocks, in various degrees of progress; but none of these could be launched and equipped till the middle of next year. Now, England will shortly have in the Mediterranean fifteen sail of the line, besides another at Lisbon, and besides the three first rates which are stationed as guard ships at home, making 21 in all, and without reckoning the three sail of the line which are in the China Sea, and which therefore cannot count in this comparison. We have therefore already a naval force quite sufficient to prevent the French from committing any inconsiderate act that would lead unintentionally to war. And if France should determine to throw down the gauntlet, and defy us to combat, we could without difficulty, and in a short space of time, have at sea a fleet of between sixty and seventy sail of line of-battle ships, in excellent order and condition. We think, then, that we have succeeded in showing good reason why there is no likelihood that the peace of Europe should be disturbed by any unprovoked aggression on the part of France.

MARINE LIST.

Port of Buenos Ayres.

October 3.—*Wind N. shifted to S. in the afternoon. Rain all the morning.*

No arrivals or sailings.

October 4.—*Wind S. S. W.*

No arrivals.

Sailed, Brazilian barque of war Twentyninth August, 18 guns, Captain Antonio Felix Correa de Mello, for Montevideo.

October 5.—*Wind N. E. strong in the evening.*

No arrivals or sailings.

October 6.—*Wind N.*

No arrivals.

Sailed, United States corvette Decator, 16 guns, Captain Henry W. Ogden, for Montevideo.

October 7.—*Wind N. shifted to E. in the evening, strong.*

No arrivals or sailings.

October 8.—*Wind E. strong.*

Arrived, H. B. M's packet schooner Spider, Lieut. John O'Reilly, Commander, from Rio Janeiro 28th ult., arrived at Montevideo 6th inst., sailed thence 7th, with the mail of the packet Magnet, from Falmouth 7th August.

Passengers from Rio Janeiro to Montevideo, Mr. and Mrs. George Brownell and family, Mrs Thomas Jones and son, Mr. Riviers and Mr. F. W. Delisle.

Passengers from Montevideo—None.

October 9.—*Wind E. N. E. slight rain.*

No arrivals or sailings.

ARGENTINE THEATRE.

On 4th inst., was performed to a very thin house, the comedy of *Las muñecas de Marcela* and a farce. The comedy was a lively affair, something in the style of "The Wonder," viz: A lover ever jealous and ever suing for pardon for his jealousy, at the feet of his 'adored mistress;' whilst she, conscious of her power, wheedles and tyrannises over him. 'Am I a *traidora*,' says she, 'as you called me just now.' 'O, no,' says the love sick gentleman, 'I was a wretch to say so; you are all purity.' Such are lovers. There was an amusing under plot, in which the gentleman's valet and the lady's maid carried on a love affair in imitation of their betters, quarrelling and making it up again by turns.

The performers, viz:—Señores Villarino, Uriarte, the junior Gonzales, and Señoras Rossi, Funes de Gonzales, and another lady, played with great spirit notwithstanding the thinness of the house.

We trust that the clouds which now lower over theatrical concerns will soon disperse.

CIRCUS.

(AT THE RETIRO GARDEN.)

There were performances at this place of public amusement on the 4th inst.

H. E. Don Luis Sousa Diaz, Minister Plenipotentiary from the Court of Brazil to this Republic, quitted Buenos Ayres on Sunday last, in the Brazilian barque of war Twentyninth August, upon which occasion he issued the following address which we have translated from the daily papers.

'The Minister of Brazil, having obtained from his government leave of absence from this city, in order to recruit his health, which has been considerably impaired, takes this opportunity to express his gratitude for the attentions and kindness he has experienced during his stay in it; trusting at the same time that this cordial manifestation will be received as a sufficient farewell, by those, whom the precipitation of his departure, has prevented his waiting on in person.'

H. B. M's ships Stag and Rose, and brig Grecian, are expected in the River Plate immediately.

The French Admirals Mackau and Dupotet, were about to sail from Montevideo for this.

On the 15th July, a Treaty was signed in London, in which the Four Powers, viz:—Russia, Austria, Prussia and England, agreed to set limits to or curtail the dangerous preponderance of Mehemet Ali, the Pacha of Egypt, which France wished to uphold and increase. As France was not consulted in the affair she took umbrage thereon, and ordered the armaments we have noticed, in which it is stated the French government was seconded by popular opinion in France. The French journals indulged in great vituperation against that of Great Britain, and particularly against Lord Palmerston, but they had latterly become more moderate, owing perhaps to the calmness with which the English papers reasoned upon the subject, or other causes. The French opposition journals describe M. Thiers as having no talent but that of intrigue, and that he and his master Louis Philippe are at 'daggers drawn,' and scold each other through the medium of their respective journals, the *Debats* being the organ of the former and the *Constitutionel* that of the latter.

The Ultra-Tory journals in the United Kingdom, accuse the Ministry with endeavouring to involve the country in war with France without adequate cause, but the more moderate ones do not disapprove of its conduct as it regards the treaty in question.

Operations of the French blockading vessels.

3rd inst. Nothing new.

4th. Do.

5th. The French schooner of war Eclair, arrived from Montevideo. Two French whale boats (having another in tow) came in from the N. One of them proceeded again to the N.

6th. Nothing new.

7th. The Eclair sailed apparently for Montevideo. Beef boat (balandrita) arrived from Colonia and sailed again. A small French schooner and a whale boat arrived from Colonia. A launch left the outer roads and went alongside the brig off the town. The launch had previously arrived from the N. Two whale boats were cruising last night to the N. and returned to the outer roads this morning. The brig Cassard and her launch exercised great guns and small arms this afternoon, and kept continually firing.

The report of several heavy guns from the opposite shore was heard this afternoon.

8th. A launch and three whale boats sailed to the N. The three whale boats returned at night with a prize ketch.

9th. A launch and a whale boat cruised last night to the S. and returned to the outer roads this morning.

This day (10th inst.) completes the 928th day of the blockade.

THE WEATHER has been fine and seasonable during the week. Thermometer 58 to 68.

The Rev. William Armstrong, now in charge of the British Chaplaincy of this City, has been appointed by the Bishop of London to the Brish Chaplaincy of Valparaiso.

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Advertisements.

NOTICE.

THE Persons who have taken from the Commercial Room 'Blackwood's Magazine' for July last and other numbers of that work, are requested to return them.

ATKINSON,

TAILOR,

Calle de la Chacabuco, No. 102.

EMBRACES the present opportunity of returning his grateful acknowledgments to his friends and the public for the countenance he has already received since his arrival in Buenos Ayres, and trusts by an assiduous attention to business to give the utmost satisfaction to those who may honor him with their commands.

N. B. Orders for military and naval uniforms executed on the shortest notice. s19 4t

$500 REWARD.

ON Several late arrivals of the English Mail, many newspapers, a letter, &c., addressed 'Dr. Mackenna, care of Dr. Oughan, Buenos Ayres," having been stolen, Dr. Mackenna offers the above reward to any one who may give such information as will lead to the detection and exposure of those engaged in such a disgraceful practice.

39, Calle de la Paz. Friday, Oct. 9th.

FOR SALE.

THE BRITISH PACKET Newspaper for 1830 and 1831 complete. Also various numbers of that paper from the years 1829 to 1839. Apply at No. 22, Calle de Cuyo. o3 3t

"*The Mirror*" *for January last.*

IT is respectfully requested that the above-mentioned work and other publications appertaining to the Commercial Room may be returned to that establishment.

Wants a situation

A Person as Wet Nurse, either in town or country, enquire at No, 100, Calle de Balcarce.

SUPERIOR CHARCOAL.

FOR SALE, at No. 39, Calle de la Esmeralda, at 25 dollars the quartilla, taking two quartillas or upwards, and at 26 dollars retail.

PRICES CURRENT.

Doubloons, Spanish.......				dollars each	no price.
Do. Patriot				do. do.	
Plata macuquina				do. for one	
Dollars, Spanish				do. each.	
Do Patriot and Patacones..				do. do.	
Six per cent Stock... ...	60	a		do. per ct.	
Bank Shares	*none*				
Exchange on England .. .	1¾	a	1⅞	penceperdol	
Do. Rio Janeiro..		a		nominal.	
Do. Montevideo..	29	a		per patacon	
Do. United States		a		per U.S.dollar	
Hides, Ox, for Eng. & Ger.	55	a	60	dls.p.pesada	
Do. for France.....	50	a	52	do.	
Do. for N.America..	47	a	48	do.	
Do. for Spain.......	52	a	54	do.	
Do. salted	45	a	48	do.	
Do. Horse	20	a	22	do.each.	
Calf skins......	40	a	45		
Sheep skins, common.....	23	a	24	per dozen	
Do. fine.........	27	a	28	do.	
Deer skins..............	20	a	22	do.	
Goat skins..............	35	a	40	do.	
Nutria Skins........	5¼	a	5½	do. perlb.	
Chinchilli Skins..	90	a	100	do.perdozen	
Horse hair, short..........	45	a	50	per arroba.	
Do. mixed.........	50	a	55	do.	
Do. long.....	90	a	100	do.	
Wool, common, washed...	16	a	18	do.	
Do. picked.............	32	a	34	do.	
Do. shorn from skins....	40	a	50	do.	
Do. mestiza, dirty... ..	15	a	25	do.	
Tallow, pure....	25	a	27	do.	
Do. with grease.......	23	a	24	do.	
Jerked Beef.	30	a	35	per quintal	
Horns, mixed....	300	a	400	per mil.	
Do. Ox....	600	a	700	do.	
Salt, on board............		a	*none*	per fan	
Discount	1	a	1¼	pr.ct.pr.month	

The highest price of Doubloons during the week dollars. The lowest price dollars. *no transactions.*

The highest rate of Exchange upon England during the week 1⅞ pence. The lowest ditto 1¾ pence.

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GEORGE THOMAS, Responsible Editor.

" Both British ships made all sail in chase, and at noon the Niemen was about half topsails down from the deck of the Amethyst. The chase continued all the afternoon; so little, however, to the advantage of the Amethyst, although a much better sailer than her consort, that at sunset the line of the Niemen's taffrail was all that could be seen from the lower part of the Amethyst's main rigging, bearing a point and a half on her weather or larboard bow.—At 7h. 20m., which was just as it was getting dark, the Amethyst lost sight, both of the Emerald that was astern, and the Niemen that was ahead of her.

"Concluding that the French frigate, on getting rid of her pursuers, would resume her course to the westward, Captain Seymour, at 9 p. m., bore up to south-west. At 9h. 40m. p. m., the wind then blowing in squalls from the east-north-east, the Amethyst discovered, on her weather beam, the ship she was in search of; and who now, as rightly conjectured by Captain Seymour, was steering to the westward. The Amethyst lost no time in giving chase; and the Niemen, having only in view to execute her mission, wore and made all sail with the wind upon the larboard quarter, steering about south by west. At 11h. 30m. p. m. the Amethyst began firing her bow chasers, and was fired at in return by the stern-guns of the Niemen.—At 1h. 15m. a. m. on the 6th the Amethyst closed upon the Niemen's larboard quarter, and opened her starboard broadside. In return, the Niemen fired her guns on the larboard side, then wore round on the starboard tack, and steered to the north-west. As soon as she could wear and trim sail, the Amethyst hauled up after her opponent; and, as the rigging and sails of the Niemen had already received some damage, the Amethyst, at about 1h. 45m. a.m., ranged close alongside of her to windward.

"After an exchange of broadsides, the Amethyst, having passed ahead, bore round up, raked the Niemen, and then braced sharp up again on the same tack under the French frigate's lee bow. At 2h. 45m. a. m. the Niemen fell on board the Amethyst, on her starboard beam and quarter; but, in a few minutes, the Amethyst shooting ahead, the Niemen got clear, and bore away south-west. At about 3 a. m. the Amethyst, having crossed over, got upon the larboard and weather beam of the Niemen.—Scarcely had the mutual cannonade recommenced between the two ships in this position, ere the Niemen caught fire in her larboard hammock netting. At 3h. 15m. a. m. the Niemen had her mizenmast and main topmast shot away. The ship had also just caught fire in the main top, and her main yard was lowered half way down the mast. In this state, the Niemen bestowed little or no return to the animated cannonade maintained by the Amethyst. At 3h. 25m. a. m., finding that her antagonist had ceased firing, the Amethyst ceased also, and bore up under her stern. At about 3h. 30m. a. m., as the Amethyst, with her main yard square, was in the act of bringing to to leeward of the Niemen, the mainmast of the British ship, owing chiefly to the quantity of canvass that lay aback against it and the damaged state of the rigging, came down, carrying with it the mizenmast; and the wreck of the two masts fell over the lee quarter. Almost at the same moment the Niemen's mainmast, or what remained of it, came down by the board; and the 38-gun frigate Arethusa, Captain Robert Mends, just then announced to the Amethyst, by signal, her approach from the eastward.

"The Amethyst meanwhile, in consequence of the great way upon the ship having caused the spread sails over the lee quarter to act as a back-water, disobeyed her helm, and wore with her stern abreast of the Niemen's starboard and lee beam. At 3h. 45m. p. m., while the Amethyst was in this unfortunate position, the Arethusa approached within gun-shot on the larboard quarter of the Niemen, who was then going nearly before the wind. The French ship thereupon hoisted a light, and fired one shot at the Arethusa and another at the Amethyst. The Arethusa then gave a small yaw and fired seven or eight of her foremost larboard guns at the Niemen. To this fire, the French frigate made no return, but hauled down her light, and almost instantaneously raised and lowered it again as the signal of submission.

"The guns of the Amethyst were precisely those which she mounted in her action with the Thetis; but in complement the frigate was short, having two lieutenants and 37 men absent; all, except one of the lieutenants (who had been appointed, but had not joined), away in prizes, the prisoners from which, 69 in number, were then on board. Of her 222 men and boys, the Amethyst had six seamen and two marines killed, and her first and second lieutenants of marines (Henry Waring and Samuel Prytherch), her boatswain (Mr. Lacey), 24 seamen, and 10 marines wounded.

"The armament of the Niemen was the same as that of the Thetis, except that the former mounted two additional 36-pounder carronades, or 14 in all; making her total number of guns 46, two more than are stated in Captain Seymour's letter. The French frigate, whose hull was much cut up by shot, and whose remaining mast was in a tottering state, had on board as her complement, when the action commenced, 339 men and boys; of whom she lost 47 in killed, and 73 in wonnded. The Arethusa, not having been fired at except by a single gun, sustained no loss or damage whatever. The same statement of comparative force, given in the action between the Amethyst and Thetis, will, without being more particular, suffice to show the relative force of the Amethyst and Niemen.

"Every Englishman, who is proud of the martial spirit of his country, must regret that a third party came to interrupt a meeting, which his own, although the numerically weaker side, was so near bringing to a favorable termination. A view of the relative damage and loss sustained by the two frigates, and of their relative means of further annoyance, as displayed by the vigorous fire of the one, and the slackened and still slackening fire of the other, cannot leave a doubt that, at the time the Arethusa made her appearance, the combat between the Amethyst and Niemen was virtually, if not formally, decided.

"On the day succeeding that of the capture, the foremast of the Niemen, as a proof of the damage it had received in the action, fell over the side, and the Arethusa took the prize in tow. Being only nine months old, and a remarkably fine frigate, the Niemen became a great acquisition to the British navy; in which, under her French name, she classed the same as the Amethyst's former prize, the Thetis. Captain Seymour, soon after his return to port, was made a baronet of the United Kingdom; and the first lieutenant of the Amethyst, Mr. William Hill, who, from the absence of two lieutenants, had a double share of duty to perform, was as deservedly promoted to the rank of commander.

"That, as Captain Seymour in his official letter is careful to state, "the French captain defended his ship with great ability and resolution," the length of the action, the execution done to the Amethyst, and the circumstances under which the surrender took place, sufficiently testify."

The remainder of the account is taken up with rebutting the assertion of the Paris paper 'Moniteur,' that the victory would have been the Niemen's, but for the arrival of the Arethusa.

FRANTIC DESIGN TO MURDER.

Frustrated by the presence of mind of the young Lady Campbell.

We tell the tale as told to us, without presuming to add to or detract from its simple narrative one iota:—

One evening last week, after the youngest Lady Campbell had withdrawn to her room, she was surprised at hearing the governess of the family, who slept in the adjoining apartment, walking about after her usual hour of retiring to rest. Fearing that she was taken unwell, she hurried to her, and found her with a knife in her hand, apparently preparing to leave the room. On seeing Lady Campbell the governess said—"I am going to cut the Duchess's throat; I know how Courvoisier managed—I will cut it from ear to ear." Lady Campbell replied, "You are quite right; nothing can be more proper than your determination, but had you not better make sure by waiting till the morning, instead of running the risk of waking the Duchess by stumbling in the dark on the stairs?" The suggestion was approved; the governess lay down, and Lady Campbell hastened to her room and rang the bell. Before, however, her maid had got up stairs, Lady Campbell heard the restless steps of the governess again, and hastened to her. "I can't wait," she said, "my knife's all ready, and I must go." By this time Lady Campbell heard her maid's foot on the stairs, called her in—the two managed to get the knife out of the governess's hand, to force her into bed, and then rang violently for help, which the unusual violence with which the bell was pulled soon summoned. We need hardly say that the governess had been seized with mania occasioned by the impression made by Lord William Russell's dreadful murder; and we regret to add that she is still a sufferer from the afflicting malady. But our readers—at least all acquainted with the noble family of Argyll—will be surprised to learn that the young lady who showed this astonishing presence of mind, is only fifteen years of age.—We certainly remember nothing comparable to it; and 'tis equally noble and affecting. The story has in it the elements of romance, and will be told in many a fiction. We haven given the reality as far more striking than either.

Court Gazette.

PUFF DIRECT.

(From an English Paper.)

Ten Thousand Virgins Slain!—"Perhaps," says that agreeable tourist, Captain Scott, "the annals of no country excepting France, furnish us with a case so singular extraordinary, and at the same time so affectingly horrible, as that of the slaying of ten thousand virgins, who fell in defence of their honour.—The bones of these martyrs to virtue lie bleaching in the catacombs; and my anxious curiosity to possess myself of an osseous fragment had well nigh cost me a very fatal accident. Not perceiving an inequality in the ground in those dark subterraneous hollows, I fell at full length across a heap of bones, and was so severely stunned and bruised as to be incapable of moving. The guide contrived to get me to the mouth of the catacombs, and by the time I got home, I was in a most pitiable state of rigidity. The next day but one I had to start for Madrid!—What was I to do? Fortunately I recollected that I had in my portmanteau some boxes of "Holloway's Ointment," and its admirable tonic and alterative auxiliary, "Holloway's External Disease Pill." These renowned preparations I used forthwith, and by the time I had to start, I was as vigorous as ever!" We also can affirm that, in all external disorders, these truly unrivalled preparations produce the most marvellous effects, as thousands who have suffered from gout, rheumatism, cancer, scrofula, glandular complaints, paralysis, piles, wounds, &c., are ready to testify.

Advertisements.

FOR SALE.

SUPERIOR Half-bred wether Mutton, at No. 42, Calle de la Catedral, near to Beech's Hotel. Also fine young wethers, for stock. o3 3t

MERCHANT VESSELS
In the Port of Buenos Ayres, on 8th of October, 1840.

NONE.

FOREIGN VESSELS OF WAR.

FRENCH. Corvette Triomphant, 24 guns, Captain Penaud.
Corvette Alcmene, 26 guns, Captain Lecointe.
Brig Cassard, 20 guns, Captain Jourdan, with Commodore's broad pendant.
Brig Dassas, 20 guns. Brig Bolonnaise, 8 guns. Brig Cygne, 22 guns.

BRITISH. Brig Clio, 16 guns, Captain Stephen Grenville Fremantle.
Brig Camelion, 10 guns, George Martin Hunter, Lieut. Commanding.
Packet schooner Spider, 6 guns, Lieut. John O'Reilly, Commander.

BRAZILIAN. Brigantine Argos, 10 guns, Captain Manoel Francisco da Costa Pereira.